

right direction to reduce the social, economic and human costs associated with diabetes.

Congress has the ability to enhance Federal programs and increase funding to combat this debilitating illness. I was pleased to see the bipartisan dedication to doubling the funding of the National Institutes of Health, NIH, over a 5-year period, which was completed in 2003. This initiative alone has helped to expand current research, which therefore improves the path toward finding treatment and cures of all diseases, including that of diabetes. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was pleased to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to request \$1.6 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Kidney Diseases for fiscal year 2004. In addition to NIH, we must continue to fight to secure increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. The CDC provides invaluable research on chronic diseases such as diabetes, and helps fund important state program such as the South Dakota Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, DPCP.

I encourage both Congress and the President to continue to build on existing efforts to address diabetes through increased funding for NIH, for the Institute of Diabetes and Kidney Diseases, and for the CDC in the upcoming year. I believe that we can achieve this goal in bipartisan fashion and provide greater assistance to the many Americans in all parts of our Nation that live with this chronic illness.●

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I opposed the omnibus appropriations bill that the Senate voted on yesterday. It is the latest example of the annual breakdown in the congressional appropriations process. Once again, instead of considering appropriations bills individually, the Senate voted on a massive spending bill that includes many—in this case, seven—of the annual appropriations bills.

This process just invites the kind of problems—unauthorized spending, special interest provisions and legislative riders that go against the will of a majority in Congress—that we see in this omnibus bill. Take, for example, the Bush administration's proposed sweeping changes to regulations governing overtime pay for white-collar workers. These proposed changes would weaken overtime protections for these workers by changing the way that eligibility for overtime is determined. Both the House and the Senate are on record in favor of a provision that would block these changes from going into effect. Nonetheless, that provision was dropped in conference after the administration exerted tremendous pressure on those negotiating the final bill.

Similarly, language that would have prevented the Federal Communications Commission from moving forward with

its plan to loosen the national cap on television ownership was badly weakened. And, of course, there are numerous bad provisions in the bill, including one that would create a voucher program in Washington, DC, public schools and another that would prevent country of origin labeling on many agricultural products.

I wish I could have supported this bill as there are a few worthy things in it, such as funding for global AIDS programs and for the rural AED Act, a program I created with Senator SUSAN COLLINS to increase access to defibrillators in rural areas. I am pleased that the bill contains language I fought for that would required Federal agencies to report on their purchases of foreign-made goods. As manufacturing jobs continue to disappear across the country, particularly in my home State of Wisconsin, the Federal Government should be doing everything it can to support American manufacturers. I am also pleased that the bill includes a provision I fought for to prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs from enforcing its policy of prohibiting VA employees from taking proactive steps to let veterans know about the health care benefits for which they may be eligible.

Those provisions do not outweigh the many bad ones in this bill, however. Mr. President, this is simply no way to fund the Federal Government. I regret that this "must-pass" bill is being used as a platform for bad funding decisions and for bad policy decisions, many of which override the will of a bipartisan majority of Congress. We need to go back to taking up and passing appropriations bills one by one, rather than throwing everything but the kitchen sink into a single, bloated piece of legislation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 289. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to free trade

negotiations that could adversely impact the sugar industry of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 290. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production and legal representation in State of Idaho v. Joseph Daniel Hooper; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 736

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen enforcement of provisions relating to animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 1394

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1394, a bill to establish a demonstration project under the medicaid program to encourage the provision of community-based services to individuals with disabilities.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to amend section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals receiving unemployment compensation to be eligible for a refundable, advanceable credit for health insurance costs.

S. 2008

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an electronic nationwide livestock identification system, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 289—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THAT COULD ADVERSELY IMPACT THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 289

Whereas the President has concluded negotiations with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to form a Central American Free Trade Agreement (referred to in this resolution as "CAFTA"), and is seeking to incorporate Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic into that agreement;

Whereas CAFTA seeks to provide those countries with increased access to the United States sugar market;

Whereas, simultaneously, the Administration has embarked on a multitude of free trade agreements with major sugar producing nations such as Australia, members